



**TOWN OF KNIGHTDALE**  
**PLANNING AND ENGINEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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**950 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale, North Carolina 27545**

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**November 12, 2013**

The Knightdale Planning and Engineering Committee met in the upstairs conference room in the Town of Knightdale Town Hall 6:00 p.m. on November 12, 2013.

**ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER**

**...Councilor Poirier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2013.**

**ATTENDING:** Councilor Poirier, Doug Taylor, Mark Swan, Chris Hills, Fred Boone, Jeff Triezenberg, Jennifer Currin, Courtney Jenkins

**ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**...Mr. Boone moved to approve the October 14, 2013 minutes. Mr. Taylor seconded. Without objection the motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Construction Projects Update**

Greenway Phase II – Mr. Boone stated the project is approximately 60% complete. Bridge number two has been set. The project has experienced some delays due to saturated soil in trail areas. More sound soil is being installed with stones to ensure proper drainage. There have been some equipment delays as well. Expected delivery is currently in March or April.

Knightdale Park Phase II – The building permits have been issued and released. The contractor has mobilized on site and is working on erosion control and moving dirt off site. The project is still on schedule for a July 28<sup>th</sup> completion date.

Smithfield Road Project – The notice of award has been provided to the contractor. The Town might need to contribute more funds to the project than originally expected. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2014.

Smithfield CMAQ and STPDA – The projects will be bid out together; Staff is currently working on getting the bids ready. Construction authorization has been requested from NCDOT.

#### ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Split Rail Fence at New Park

Mr. Boone stated that regarding split rail fencing at Knightdale Station, there are two considerations. The first is for a split rail fence at the dry retention basin. Split rail has already been used as a barrier for other areas at the park.

Councilor Poirier asked if the pond is the area where the Town has received several requests due to the proximity of the playground.

Mr. Boone answered yes and Staff is ready to move forward with that request. The second consideration is from OTOC, for a split rail fence on the south side of the pedestrian access along from what used to be Sycamore.

Mr. Triezenberg stated that the Arboretum could have a different fence type, so there is a concern regarding differentiating fences. The ultimate goal for the Arboretum is to not have a visible fence but to have an overgrown, green fence.

Mr. Hills stated it is not a budgeted item but is a concern from OTOC. The Town could wait and see if the landscaper provides enough of a barrier.

Ms. Currin replied that the plans have a row of canopy trees which would provide a visual barrier.

Mr. Triezenberg answered that the purpose is to try to funnel citizens down the sidewalk and not have them create their own paths.

Mr. Boone stated that it is a concern because eventually the adjacent parcel will consist of tennis courts framed in which could provide some split rail fence as well. The PQ for the fence at the dry retention basin has already been approved.

Councilor Poirier and Mr. Taylor agreed that they are in favor of the budget amendments for split rail fencing at requested locations.

##### B. Street Tree Locations/Street Cross Sections

Mr. Hills discussed the location of street trees in Town. Previously, the trees were planted between the back of curb and the sidewalks. However, it violated DOT policy and the specification was modified to move the street trees 3 ft. on the other side of the sidewalk. Staff decided to use Hinton Oaks Blvd. and the Cheswick subdivision as pilot programs to assess the progress of their street trees to determine if damage was made to the sidewalk or curb over time. Mr. Stephen Morgan from the Land Use Review Board has brought the subject matter back to light. Staff provided visuals of the current conditions at the pilot programs indicating that there has been little damage to the sidewalk or curb. Both of the projects used understory trees such as Crape Myrtles and Cherry trees. Staff would like to revisit the street tree program to determine the proper location and species. Planting in between the curb and sidewalk can have several advantages such as increased aesthetics, reduce the speed of vehicles and make residents feel safer. Planting on the other side of the sidewalk can cause the street trees

to be seen as yard trees and it does raise the question of who is in charge of maintenance.

Mr. Taylor replied that DOT is primarily concerned about the clear zone.

Mr. Hills stated that Staff still wants to comply with DOT. Staff's request is to think about what the best options are for the short and long term aesthetics for the Town and neighborhoods.

Mr. Boone responded that there are other considerations as well. The selected species of trees can determine the possible effects of damage. Changing the location does offer more potential damage to both curb and gutter, sidewalks, right-of-way and storm drainage easements. If maintenance needs to be performed, the trees could have to be pulled out. However, the Town has not had to replace curb in Town for a long time.

Councilor Poirier stated that the Committee needs to have a firm grasp on species and all considerations.

Mr. Hills answered that Staff will put together supporting documentation regarding pros and cons and bring the information back to the next meeting.

#### C. Street Tree Maintenance

Mr. Boone stated that he is looking for guidance regarding the maintenance of street trees in subdivisions. It has typically been an unwritten rule that the homeowner takes the responsibility for the trees and maintenance. He asked the committee to contemplate the responsibility and recommended discussing the item, with the Street Tree locations, at the next P&E Committee meeting.

### ITEM V. OTHER BUSINESS

#### A. Laurel Crossing Street Name

Mr. Hills informed the committee that Mr. Nathan Ray has requested a name change for Tae Kwon Do before Town Council. The original name was created when Master Lee constructed his building. Council has directed P&E to evaluate the road name and propose alternates. Laurel Square Drive has been reserved and approved by Wake County, Mr. Ray listed several alternates as well. Since residents are beginning to occupy the Laurel Crossing Apartments, it is recommended that if a change is to be made, it needs to be as soon as possible.


Mr. Taylor answered that the name Laurel Square Drive seems appropriate and ties into the Steeple Square name.

Councilor Poirier suggested contacting Mr. Ray and ask if he has any objection to the name Laurel Square Drive. The change could happen more swiftly since Wake County already has it reserved and approved.

...Mr. Swan motioned to advance the street name change from Tae Kwon Do Drive to Laurel Square Drive. Mr. Taylor seconded. Without objection the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM VI. ADJOURNMENT

... Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Attest, Chairman of the Planning and Engineering Committee, Dustin Tripp



Clerk to the Planning and Engineering Committee, Courtney Jenkins